



# NEWS

Judicial Council of California  
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Release Date: May 9, 2001

Release Number: S.C. 18/01

## **SUMMARY OF CASES ACCEPTED DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 30, 2001**

[This news release is issued to inform the public and the press of cases that the Supreme Court has accepted and of their general subject matter. The description or descriptions set out below do not necessarily reflect the view of the court, or define the specific issues that will be addressed by the court.]

#01-43 Estate of Stephens, S095401. (G021962.) Unpublished opinion. Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed in part and reversed in part an order in a probate proceeding. This case concerns whether an agent's authority to sign a deed must be in writing or whether the principal's oral ratification can suffice, and whether a person who is instructed by a grantor to sign a deed on the grantor's behalf must do so in the grantor's presence in order for the signature to be legally effective.

#01-44 People v. Valdez, S095660. (C031612, C032849; 86 Cal.App.4th 748.) Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed and reversed judgments of conviction of a criminal offense. This case concerns what mental state of a defendant must be proven in order to establish a violation of felony child abuse (Pen. Code, § 273a, subd. (a)) that is based upon child endangerment or indirect infliction of abuse. (See People v. Sargent (1999) 19 Cal.4th 1206, 1216, fn. 5.)

#01-45 People v. Bowin, S095856. (H019290.) Unpublished opinion. Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed a judgment of conviction of criminal offenses. The court ordered briefing deferred pending decision in People v. Crayton, S085780 (#00-34), which concerns whether the trial court erred in failing to obtain an

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express waiver of the right to counsel in superior court when defendant expressly waived the right to counsel at the preliminary examination, and, if so, what prejudicial error standard applies.

#01-46 People v. Plyler, S095569. (A083800, A090477.) Unpublished opinion. Petition for review after the Court of Appeal affirmed an order of commitment as a sexually violent predator and denied a petition for writ of habeas corpus. The court ordered briefing deferred pending decision in People v. Otto, S088807 (#00-101), People v. Roberge, S094627 (#01-34), and People v. Torres, S079575 (#99-124), which present evidentiary and instructional issues in proceedings under the Sexually Violent Predators Act (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 6600 et seq.).

## **DISPOSITION**

#00-75 Grossmont Healthcare Dist. v. San Diego Hospital Assn., S088257, was dismissed and remanded to the Court of Appeal following notice of settlement of the action.

## **STATUS**

#01-42 Manduley v. Superior Court, S095992. The court ordered briefing expanded to include all issues raised in the Court of Appeal as to the validity of the amendments made to Welfare and Institutions Code section 707 by the Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative (Prop. 21, Primary Elec. (Mar. 7, 2000)).